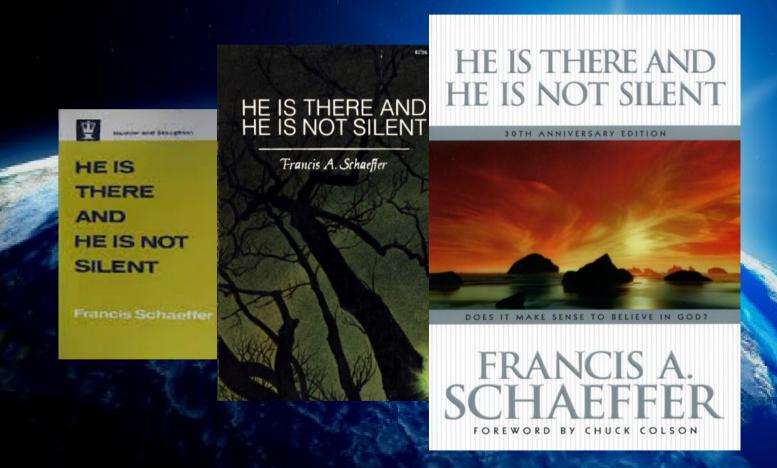
He is There and He is Not Silent

The Metaphysical Questions, Part 1 - "Silence"



Presented at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS redeemer-pca.org -Spring 2015

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The Basic Questions – Terminology "Being"

- "The Metaphysical Necessity"
- Metaphysics
 - Greek ta meta ta phusika
 - "the things after [upon, beyond] the Physics"
 - NOT AFTER: "The First Philosophy" ~ Aristotle
 - "the science of the world beyond nature, inmaterial"
 - Concerned with <u>First Principles of Reality</u>

The Metaphysical Necessity - Simplified

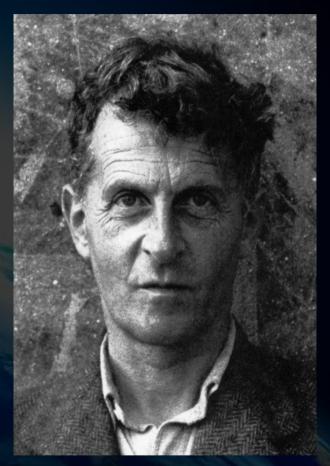
- "Being"
 - Where did EVERYTHING come from?
- Necessity "God is There and He is Not Silent"
 - [He has Created, He has Revealed, in Time & Space]

The Problem of Existence

- Something is there!
- Classes of Possible Answers to Why Something is There:
 - There IS NO rational answer
 - There IS a rational answer

No Question, No Answer, Silence

- "For doubt can exist only where a question exists, a question only where an answer exists, and an answer only where something can be said. We feel that even when all possible scientific questions have been answered, the problems of life remain completely untouched. Of course there are then no questions left, and this itself is the answer. The solution of the problem of life is seen in the vanishing of the problem..." ~ Wittgenstein, Tractatus 6.52-6.521
- "What we cannot speak about we must pass over in silence." ~ Wittgenstein, Tractatus 7
- "Wittgenstein as a mystic greatly valued 'the silence,'... no matter how much we need values, ethics, meanings, there is only silence."
 - ~ Francis Schaeffer, The God Who Is There



Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951)

Why Not NO Answer?

• "If a man held that everything is meaningless, nothing has answers and there is no cause-and-effect relationship, and if he really held this position with any consistency, it would be very hard to refute. But in fact, no one can hold consistently that everything is chaotic and irrational and that there are no basic answers. It can be held theoretically, but it cannot be held in practice that everything is absolute chaos.

The first reason the irrational position cannot be held consistently in practice is the fact that the external world is there and it has form and order. It is not a chaotic world. If it were true that all is chaotic, unrelated, and absurd, science as well as general life would come to an end. To live at all is not possible except in the understanding that the universe that is there—the external universe—has a certain form, a certain order, and that man conforms to that order and so can live within it. " ~ Schaeffer, He is There and He is Not Silent

A Little Bit of Order

 "Sometimes people try to bring in a little bit of order; but as soon as you bring in a little bit of order, the first class of answer—that everything is meaningless, everything is irrational—is no longer selfconsistent and falls to the ground.

The view that everything is chaotic and there are no ultimate answers is held by many thinking people today, but in my experience they always hold it very selectively. Almost without exception (actually, I have never found an exception), they discuss rationally until they are losing the discussion, and then they try to slip over into the answer of irrationality. But as soon as the one we are discussing with does that, we must point out to him that as soon as he becomes selective in his argument of irrationality he makes his whole argument suspect."~ Schaeffer, He is There and He is Not Silent

The Silence in Film



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Bergman's Trilogy

"All three films focus on spiritual issues."
 Bergman writes, "These three films deal with reduction. Through a Glass Darkly – conquered certainty. Winter Light – penetrated certainty.
 The Silence – God's silence – the negative imprint. Therefore, they constitute a trilogy."
 [Through a Glass Darkly DVD Inner Sleeve]

No One There To Speak

• "Bergman has given the clearest expression perhaps of the contemporary despair. He has said that he deliberately developed the flow of his pictures, that is, the whole body of his movies rather than just individual films, in order to teach existentialism.

His existentialist films led up to but do not include the film The Silence. This film was a statement of utter nihilism. Man, in this Picture, did not even have the hope of authenticating himself by an act of the will. The Silence was a series of snapshots with immoral and pornographic themes. The camera just took them without any comment. "Click, click, click, cut!" That is all there is. Life is like that: unrelated, having no meaning as well as no morals." ~ Francis Schaeffer, *The God Who Is There*

• "Rationalism means that man begins from himself alone and tries to build all the answers on this base, receiving nothing from any other source and specifically refusing any revelation from God. Such rejection of revelation has led in our era to the position of the early Wittgenstein and the movie The Silence by the film maker, Ingmar Bergman. There is no one there to speak." ~ Francis Schaeffer, *The Church at the End of the Twentieth Century*

Discussion

Why should we question the silence?



Discussion

• If all is silence, what is man left with?



Discussion

What is the necessity in the face of silence?

